

An  
Inaugural Dissertation  
on  
Cholera Infantum

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Virginia

Die  
Inaugural Dissertation  
von  
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in Bonn

## Cholera Infantum

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This disease becomes most prevalent, and is attended with symptoms of the greatest danger, during the warm months of summer and beginning of autumn.

It prevails in most of the large Towns of the United-States. It generally occurs in the southern states in April and May, but I am informed it seldom appears in Philadelphia or New-York until June or July and continues generally till the latter end of September. It becomes more dangerous in proportion as the heat of the season increases; The temperature of the weather has considerable effect on this disease, sudden changes from heat to cold, and the reverse, sudden and long continued rains, after a very dry state of the atmosphere generally favour the operation of the exciting cause. This disease may occur at any period of the infant life, and few children particularly in large cities escape some of its various forms. I shall confine myself to one form only, which consists in nausea, vomiting and purging. This complaint most frequently affects children from the third or fourth week after birth, to the second or third year. It is generally preceded by the usual precursors of the common bilious intermitting and

# Cheshire & Lancashire

The river Mersey flows from the north-west to the south-east, and is the principal river of the county. It is about 40 miles long, and discharges about 100,000,000 gallons of water daily. The river is navigable for about 20 miles, and is the principal means of communication between the north and south of the county. The river is also the source of many of the county's most important manufactures, and is the principal means of transport for the raw materials of these manufactures. The river is also the principal means of transport for the coal and iron ore which are mined in the county. The river is also the principal means of transport for the cotton and wool which are raised in the county. The river is also the principal means of transport for the food and other necessities of the county's population. The river is also the principal means of transport for the county's most important exports, and is the principal means of communication between the county and the rest of the world.

remitting fever. It comes on, and is continued with varied symptoms of fever, loss of appetite, fits of nausea, and sometimes vomiting, without purging, though more <sup>often</sup> the contrary - but it frequently comes on with violent purging and vomiting. The matter evacuated per anum is generally of a green or yellow colour, and is more or less mixed with bile, the stools however vary much in appearance in different Patients.

The fever which always accompanies this complaint is of the remitting kind, and is generally highest in the evening. In its commencement the pulse is quick, tense, full and hard, but from the copious evacuations, it soon loses its force, and becomes weak, frequent and quick. Great thirst is pretty constantly observed, and the skin is generally hot and dry - though sometimes a moisture breaks out, on the face, the extremities are sometimes colder than natural. The Child frequently appears to be severely griped. Dr Rush mentions that this disease affects the head so much, as in some instances to produce symptoms of Mania.

The duration of this disease depends much on the manner in which it comes on, the Habit, and changes of the weather &c.

If its attack be made with violence, and left to



nature, the symptoms rapidly increase till the strength of the patient is exhausted, when a fainting comes on, with cold extremities and cold sweat, which put an end to the Patient's life, sometimes in one day. A hot dry and moist atmosphere generally increase the violence of the disease; whereas a cold day very frequently produces a contrary effect by disposing it to a favourable termination. Sometimes it continues without much alteration two or three months, before any considerable change is effected, when the symptoms grow more numerous and distressing, the body becomes much emaciated, the eyes become languid, the mouth sore, sometimes livid spots appear, tickup and convulsions generally precede the fatal termination of the disease.

This disease may be confounded with Hydrocephalus Intermittens, Dysentery, and affections arising from worms.

In Hydrocephalus, the pulse is more full, tense and frequent, the evacuations are not accompanied with a discharge of bile, the eyes are affected with strabismus, and an enlargement of the pupils, These symptoms together with the impatience of the ~~at~~ patient to disturbance, and the usually constipated state of the



bruchs, will generally serve to distinguish the subject of this essay from Dropsy of the brain.

It differs from Dysentery in its characteristic symptoms vomiting, or by its invading not only the intestines which are the principal seat of that disease, but also the stomach.

It differs from affections arising from worms by its not being accompanied with that voracious appetite, and distorted sleep, the picking of the nose and many other symptoms which denote worms.

The predisposing state of the system is the same in this as in all fevers; that is general debility which is of two kinds direct, and indirect, the first depends upon the abstraction of the usual stimuli, the latter upon the increase of the natural, or upon the action of preternatural stimuli upon the body. The cause which invites morbid action more particularly to the stomach and Bruchs, is debility of the parts, which is succeeded by an increased excitability and may arise

1<sup>st</sup> from weak organization

2<sup>nd</sup> from a diseased state of the body, as sometimes happens from debility, and may take place from worms



3<sup>rd</sup> Irregularity in diet either in quality or quantity  
 4<sup>th</sup> obstructed perspiration.

The exciting causes of this disease are plentifully  
 The causes which act generally on the system are  
 such as induce fever, those which act directly on  
 the stomach and intestines, are

- 1<sup>st</sup> An increased secretion of bile
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Stomachs offensive from quality or quantity
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Repulsions of certain eruptions on the skin, and
- 4<sup>th</sup> drastic purges.

The proximate cause of this disease, is that of fever,  
 in general, unduly determined to the Liver and Intestines  
 or canal, termed by Doctor Sydenham the *febris enterica*. It consists of morbid excitement in the  
 vessels of the stomach and bowels

An increased secretion of bile by acting on the alimentary  
 canal, it is generally admitted, will induce morbid  
 action, and the large, as well as very frequent stools  
 is a proof that a preternatural secretion of bile  
 does take place in this complaint.



Most physicians, and particularly those of the United States agree that the first and most important step towards a cure, is to remove the patient from the City, to some healthy part of the adjacent Country where medical aid is scarcely necessary.

Sim like other bilious diseases of the same season is attended with an inflammatory catarrh in the beginning. When we are called early the first indication of cure must be to liberate morbid excitement. The remedies for this purpose are to evacuate the bile from the stomach and intestines.

Stood-letting, this has been practised by several Physicians, with the happiest effects. It should be repeated occasionally as the pulse may indicate. The bile and other acrid matters, are to be evacuated by the use of gentle emetics and cathartics. The mildest and best emetic is Spicacuanha in small doses, which should be given in the commencement of the disease, unless the spontaneous vomiting has been very considerable, when the contents of the prima-~~via~~ are frequently sufficiently evacuated. The bowels should be opened by the use of gentle cathartics such as Calomel.



Manna, castor. oil. Magnesia, alla and Rhubarb  
which frequently in the beginning of the disease when  
the stomach is not very irritable will prove ade-  
quate to a cure. Calomel is commonly used in  
Virginia in preference to all other evacuates in  
this disease. When the spontaneous discharge from  
the alimentary canal has been considerable, a prostration  
of strength, weak pulse & cooling of the extremities are  
produced, we may conclude that all further eva-  
cuation excited by artificial means would be improper,  
and that recourse must be had to remedies to  
subdue the vomiting & Diarrhea and to support  
the strength of the patient.

The following mixture I have seen used with the  
happiest effect. a few drops of laudanum combined  
with prepared chalk into a Sulep. with peppermint  
or Cinnamon water. It generally composes the  
stomach and insidiously and sometimes subdues  
the disease. Demulcent drinks such as barley  
water, rice gruel &c are highly useful.

Glysters made of flax seed tea or starch diffu-  
sed in water, with a few drops of laudanum  
in them will often give ease. I have seen  
cold water used as an injection with great advantage.



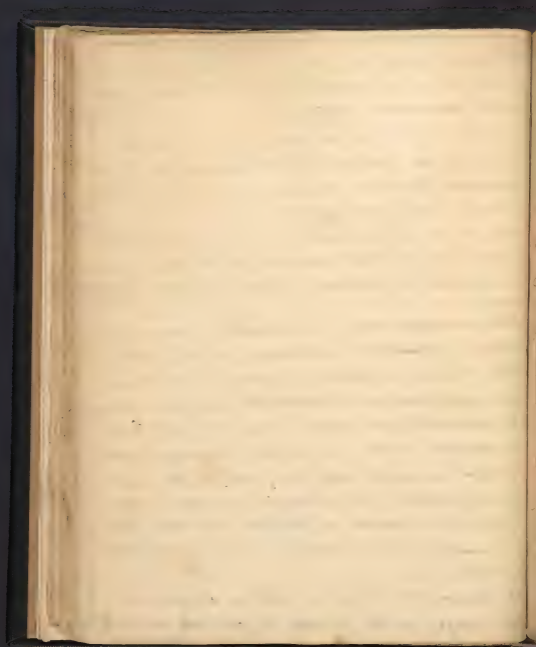
Cannels steeped in infusions of bitter herbs or in warm spirits and applied to the abdomen, often afford considerable relief.

Distensions applied to the arms, legs, and to the region of the stomach, by translating the determination from the alimentary canal, have been attended with good effects.

When the convulsive action of the stomach and bowels is composed, the strength of the patient must be supported by the use of tonic and cordial medicines.

The principal tonic recommended is peruv. bark either in decoction or substance; In the latter form however, it can very seldom be taken in doses sufficient to be serviceable, and when taken the stomach will seldom retain it; the bark in decoction, with a few drops of laudanum often repeated in small doses has produced the most salutary effects. A valuable medicine in this stage of the disease is Columbo. Root when given in decoction or in tincture; it is a stimulant and tonic.

The principal medicine used in Virginia in this stage of the disease, is calomel combined



with opium, as recommended by Doctor Miller of New York. Port wine or claret, mixed with a little water is likewise used with advantage at the same time.

The patient will generally at this stage of the complaint, rapidly regain strength, with no other remedy, than that of a diet of a nourishing and gently stimulating kind.

Thus Gentlemen have I completed an Essay, in compliance with a regulation of the University, and I submit it to your consideration, earnestly hoping that you will excuse its brevity as well as its defects. I however cannot omit tendering to you respectively my warmest thanks for the valuable instruction which I have received, by an attendance on your lectures

William T Banks  
of Virginia

Philadelphia, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1810

and then a summary of the whole of  
the work. But more is to be said  
than a summary and will be said as the  
work goes on.

The first part of the work is the  
history of the Church of England  
from the time of the Reformation  
to the present day. This part of the  
work is the most important and  
the most difficult to write.

The second part of the work is the  
history of the Church of Scotland  
from the time of the Reformation  
to the present day. This part of the  
work is the most important and  
the most difficult to write.

The third part of the work is the  
history of the Church of Ireland  
from the time of the Reformation  
to the present day. This part of the  
work is the most important and  
the most difficult to write.

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